



# MINUTES

## HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. | 110 Senate Building

### Members Present:

Sen. Keith Grover, Senate Chair  
Rep. Karen M. Peterson, House Chair  
Rep. R. Neil Walter, House Vice Chair  
Sen. David P. Hinkins  
Sen. Karen Kwan  
Sen. Ann Millner  
Sen. Kathleen A. Riebe  
Sen. Jerry W Stevenson  
Sen. Evan J. Vickers  
Sen. Chris H. Wilson  
Rep. Walt Brooks  
Rep. Brett Garner  
Rep. Michael J. Petersen

Rep. Rex P. Shipp  
Rep. Mark A. Strong  
Rep. Douglas R. Welton  
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley  
Rep. Stephen L. Whyte

### Members Absent:

Sen. Michael K. McKell  
Rep. Jon Hawkins

### Staff Present:

Ben Leishman, Finance Manager  
Joseph Ryan Fitzgerald, Financial Analyst  
Lorna Wells, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

## 1. Call to Order and Recognition of Board Members

Chair Grover called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

## 2. University of Utah

Taylor Randall, President, University of Utah, gave an overview of the "U" with the assistance of Jeff Labrum, Chief Operations Officer.

### [3-U of U Presentation 24GS](#)

Rep. Karen Peterson asked what is being done to prepare for anticipated high school enrollment declines and the other demographic enrollment shifts. Pres. Randall responded.

Sen. Millner asked for clarification of shared services, collaboration and where would the university start. Pres. Randall responded

Rep. Walter stated that the "U" is doing a great job of providing high-value education. He asked about some of the proposed budget adjustments. Pres. Randall and Jeff Labrum responded.

Sen. Riebe expressed gratitude to the "U" for their work in the medical field and other programs especially in rural areas. Pres. Randall responded.

Rep. Shipp asked how the "U" is proposing to mitigate the issue of competing for students from other institutions within the state. Pres. Randall responded.

## 3. Approval of Minutes - January 24, 2023 and January 26, 2023

**MOTION:** Rep. Peterson moved to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023 and January 26, 2023 meetings. The motion passed with a vote of 17 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 17

Rep. W. Brooks  
Rep. B. Garner  
Sen. K. Grover  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Sen. K. Kwan  
Sen. A. Millner  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Rep. K. Peterson  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Sen. J. Stevenson  
Rep. M. Strong  
Sen. E. Vickers  
Rep. R. Walter  
Rep. M. Wheatley  
Rep. S. Whyte  
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Rep. J. Hawkins  
Sen. M. McKell  
Rep. D. Welton

#### **4. Utah State University**

Utah State University students distributed Crumbl cookies and "The Greats" booklet to committee members. Elizabeth (Betsy) Cantwell, President of USU, mentioned that Crumbl was founded by a USU graduate.

Pres. Cantwell gave an overview of USU with the assistance of David T. Cowley, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services.

[4a-USU Presentation 24GS](#)

[4b -USU Greats-Accomplishments for 2023](#)

Rep. Garner asked about the job placement statistics regarding graduates staying in the field. Pres. Cantwell responded and continued the presentation.

Rep. Shipp asked for clarification about the drop in scholarship expenses. Pres. Cantwell responded and continued the presentation.

Rep. Karen Peterson expressed concern about the decline in older student enrollments and how this is being addressed. Pres. Cantwell responded.

Sen. Wilson welcomed Pres. Cantwell to USU.

Sen. Millner asked about collaboration and shared services. Pres. Cantwell responded.

Rep. Strong asked for clarification about timely completion. Pres. Cantwell responded.

Sen. Riebe welcomed Pres. Cantwell to Utah and USU. Pres. Cantwell responded.

Sen. Stevenson mentioned the collaboration of President Cantwell with President Mortensen (Weber State University)..

#### **5. Impacts of Research from R1 Institutions**

##### **Utah State University Research**

Pres. Cantwell discussed research and innovation at USU.

[4b-USU Research 24GS](#)

**University of Utah Research**

Pres. Randall discussed the impacts of Research with the assistance of Dr. Erin Rothwell, Vice President for Research of the U of U.

[5b - U of U Research 24GS](#)

**6. Requests for Appropriation**

**Student Workforce Readiness Initiative**

Sen. Vickers explained this funding request with the assistance of Pres. Mindy Benson and Vice President of Student Affairs Jared Tippets from Southern Utah University.

[6a- RFA Student Workforce Readiness Initiative](#)

[RFA - Student Workforce Readiness](#)

**USU Extension Growing Ventures**

Sen. Luz Escamilla explained this funding request with the assistance of Ken White, Dean, College of Agriculture and USU extension program.

[6d-Growing Venture All Text](#)

[RFA - Growing Ventures USU](#)

**Infrastructure for the Center for Medical Cannabis Research**

Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost explained this funding request with the assistance of Rachel Hess, Director, Center for Medical Cannabis Research, University of Utah.

[RFA - Medical Cannabis](#)

**Utah Forest Restoration Institute**

Rep. Casey Snider explained this funding request with the assistance of Dr. Linda Nagle, Dean, Dean Quinney College of Natural Resources, Utah State University.

[6g-Forest Restoration Institute All Text LMN](#)

[RFA - Forest Restoration Institute](#)

**MOTION:** Rep. Petersen moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 7.



Yeas - 13

Rep. W. Brooks  
Rep. B. Garner  
Sen. K. Grover  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Sen. K. Kwan  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Rep. K. Peterson  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. M. Strong  
Rep. R. Walter  
Rep. M. Wheatley  
Rep. S. Whyte

Nays - 0

Absent - 7

Rep. J. Hawkins  
Sen. M. McKell  
Sen. A. Millner  
Sen. J. Stevenson  
Sen. E. Vickers  
Rep. D. Welton  
Sen. C. Wilson

Chair Grover adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.